

tion we get from the wicked one hinders holiness and keeps us from being and doing what the Lord would have us. The devil does not only give us the spirit of selfishness but deceives and makes us believe we are not selfish.

The devil was very selfish himself, so much so that he was not willing to be subject to the Lord, and hence was cast out of heaven, and he has been very busy ever since, eager to inspire all with the same spirit; a spirit to do our own way, our own will. One that is inclined this way is a poor servant and an unsatisfactory steward.

We are poor stewards in the employ of one another, but we are so much worse to our God. He has done so much for us, and has so many precious promises in store for all that serve him faithfully.

When we open God's book and read his word and requirements of his people, we are made to exclaim: What a poor servant I am, what a poor steward I am. What am I doing and what have I done for the Lord? What have I done for his church, his people, his cause; whom have I been instrumental in saving? Whom have I cared for spiritually or temporally; have I said like Jesus, "I must be about my Father's business."

It is said of Jesus that while on earth he went about doing good—busy, busy doing his Father's work—faithful son; faithful steward unto death.

The command to us is to follow Jesus, he is our example. He was ever ready to do his Father's will, even unto death. When he asked that the cup might pass he also said, "Not my will but thy will be done." Oh! How many of us can say this when affliction comes?

Now, how many of us have considered this subject of stewardship, who are the Lord's stewards? Does being in the church, or being an officer in the same, attending church, paying something to the preacher or other church dues constitute our stewardship? No, no, a private member can be a good steward. A minister or any other officer of the church can be a good steward.

All of God's children are good stewards. Unless we can and do work in the vineyard of the Lord because we love him, because we love his services, love his children, love his cause, love his word, and all this more than ourselves we are no stewards of his.

In conclusion let me say a few words to us all. Our stewardship has been a very poor one to the Lord, to his word, to his cause. We are slothful servants, and the Lord is not pleased with us because we have not been faithful, because we have not persevered, have not trusted him, have not been as patient as we should have been; because we have not looked after the interests of others spiritually or temporally, have not been as sympathetic as we should have been.

The Bible teaches us on all these points and hundreds more. Therefore we should follow Jesus who was the good shepherd and faithful steward.

Home Circle

THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS

Is thy burden hard and heavy?
Do thy steps drag wearily?
Help to bear thy brother's burden,
God will bear both it and thee.

Lone and weary on the mountain,
Wouldst thou sleep amidst the snow?
Chafe the frozen form beside thee,
And together both shall glow.

Art thou stricken in life's battle?
Many wounded 'round thee moan;
Lavish on their wounds thy balsams,
And that balm will heal thine own.

—Selected.

THE HEAVENLY HOME

United Presbyterian.

Among the inspired figures which describe the future, that of a home occupies a prominent place. God is our Father; heaven is our Father's house; in that house are "many mansions," into which the whole family of God, when gathered from all the lands and centuries, shall have their abiding place. It has all the characteristics of a home. It is a place of safety, rest, love, plenty, instruction and joy: Gather up everything that makes the earthly home a pleasure, banish everything which thro sin or weakness interferes with its happiness, and heaven will be all this, and more.

This figure is a favorite one with dweller on earth. Some are homeless, and they long for the time when their wanderings shall come to an end; some are in poverty, and they long for a time when every want shall be supplied and every wish gratified; some are in sorrow, and they long for the home where all tears shall be wiped from all eyes; some are lonely because of vanished forms, and they long for the promised reunion of the future. And so believers talk with pleasure of "going home;" when a friend disappears they comfort their souls with the words, "He has gone home." They are children at school, travelers in a distant land, soldiers in camp. They think about home; they talk about home; they are ready to go home when their studies are completed, their journey ended, and their last battle won. The comfort which this figure has brought to the children of sorrow is as fathomless as the sea. The words, "Going home," are a benediction.

This home is glorious. Glory is a hard word to define. Common usage has dimmed its meaning. We generally and rightly attach to it the thought of brightness. We speak of the glory of the sun, meaning its dazzling light; of the glory of the Shekinah, with the same meaning; of the glory of the robes of those

who walk with Christ, for those robes are "white and glistening." For this reason the heavenly home is glorious. Its gates are pearl, its walls are jasper, it needs no light of the sun. But this is only a part of its glory. It possesses all the blessings of which light is the type—knowledge, holiness, life. The children of that home know as they are known; they are holy with the holiness of God; they live a life that shall never end.

The chief glory is the presence of Jesus. Without this, home would not be home, heaven would not be heaven. He shall be present in all His glory. His humiliation ended long ago; He no longer feels hunger or weariness; He is no more depised and rejected. He has the glory which He had with the Father before the world began, and He shares it with His people, as far as the finite can receive the infinite. He makes them partakers of the divine nature; He fashions them like Himself; in one word, they are "glorified together" in the heavenly home. What a privilege! To be a son, to have a son's place, to share Christ's glory! This is a wonder which staggers faith.

THE DEADLY CIGARETTE

Religious Telescope.

Scarcely a day passes but we see on our streets small boys smoking these deadly preparations. Are parents aware of what the habit means for their sons?

We also see scores of young men every day whiffing the smoke of the deadly cigarette in the air as they promenade our sidewalks and ride in our street cars. Why are they so blind to the best interests of their well-being? Why will they indulge in such a pernicious habit? The answer is: While small bits of boys they were enticed into smoking the vile, poisonous weed, and now they are powerless in the grip of a vile, depraved appetite, rushing on to premature insanity and death.

On Sunday, Sept. 3, a man twenty-three years of age died in this city. He had been a cigarette smoker seven years. A few days prior to his death he noticed that his body had become swollen, and lumps like great hives were forming over his person. He consulted a physician and was told that it was the result of cigarette smoking—that it had seriously affected his heart, and he must stop the practice at once. But he continued to smoke and died. After he was a corpse the swelling subsided and his body dwindled away to almost a skeleton before it was buried.

In all other respects this was an exemplary young man—industrious, sober, intelligent, kind to his parents, loved and respected by all who knew him, and employed at good wages in one of the most thriving industries in our city;